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Vol 20 #

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DECEMBER, 1908

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THE CRESCENT.

VOL. XX.

DECEMBER, 1908.

NO. 3

Why Does not America Produce Noted Musicians?

It is a lamentable fact that there is little chance for the American artist to succeed and win the recognition of critics. His musical abilities may be superior to those of the foreigner who comes to this country and plays to crowded houses at enormous prices, but he is under the ban—he is American. While he is forced to take up teaching to support himself, there is a host of foreign artists of the first or second class, with long and unpronounceable names, who are imported to fill the limited demand in this country, and cater to the fancies of the public. The foreign artists get all the backing of the piano houses, that of the most enterprising managers, all the booming in the papers, and most of the pull with the public; while the poor American Smith or Jones, although he may play as well, cannot draw the public, being no "Wonder Child," and never having "delighted monarchs at three years of age." All this will remain true for some time yet, for the conditions which cause this attitude cannot be immediately altered, and nine out of every ten American artists will be compelled to teach for an existence, when they would do the public a much greater service on the concert stage.

Let us for awhile look at the reason for this condition of affairs. Edward Baxter Perry has expressed it thus: "The fact is simply that there is very little real

musical culture and discrimination in this country as yet, and, generally speaking, very little culture of any kind." This is said, not of musicians, but of the listening public. We are too young, too brutally energetic, too frantically in a hurry to recognize value impartially. We incline toward the sensational too much. It is not the superiority, or style of the foreigner that pleases. It is the fact that he comes from that far-away wonderland across the waters, has a foreign name, and is making a brilliant success in American musical centers.

Our people, as a rule, do not recognize true art when it is presented to them, much less care for it.

As a consequence, they must be appealed to in a different manner. There is nothing which can appeal more strongly than novelty, which awakens curiosity. Novelty is what makes the foreign name, manners, accent, etc., appeal to the American public. Any manager will tell you that a given artist from abroad is worth much less per night the second season than the first, because he is better known. The novelty is off to some extent, and curiosity is slacked.

How often the adjectives Great! Marvelous! Wonderful! are used in advertising some new artist, appealing direct to the curiosity, and you can draw as large an audience as you please. Over four-fifths of every concert audience is drawn solely through curiosity, and not through love of music as such, or appreciation of it.

Alfred H. Hansrath, in his enthusiasm for American music says: "We have with us a species of foreign art seed, the seed that was planted for a flower, and developed into a cabbage. He insists that he is a flower, for that is the name on the package from which he issued forth. And although he may pose as a lily of the field, he toils, also doth he spin—toils for the al-

mighty dollar, and spins some musical yarns about himself.

"Again we have the foreign music-horse of doubtful ancestry who would ride over and trample upon every thing American in music. He forgets that his teacher repeatedly hinted that his ears were too long for him to pose as a horse. Long ears and long hair seem to roll up upon these shores in great abundance."

But enough in depreciation of the foreign artist who comes to America for money. When the public learns to judge the merits of music, and appreciate the interpretation of a musical program, and not the interpreter, then will the American artist win his place in the world of music. When the public becomes educated to the appreciation of good music, and forgets the popular delusion that the foreign musician is the only one worth hearing, then the American musician can earn a good living on the concert stage, and supply a need of the public—real musical exhibition. Fortunately there are in every community a few people who love music for music's sake, and know the merits of a player. They stand for American music for Americans. They are striving earnestly and enthusiastically for the promotion of musical taste and intelligence in the public in general, and do not care for the name or origin of the artist. It is to these we owe what recognition the local artist does have; and it is to these we must look for a culture in music which is bound to come before many years.

The question resolves itself down to this: give our students the proper environment and we will give Germany or any other country as good a pianist as they give us. It is not the lack of talent which handicaps us, it is the surrounding conditions and public prejudice

admiration.

He rejoices in an unconventional, unrestrained and easy flowing humor. The fact of his baldness, (for, as a friend says of him, "His mediaeval hair is excessively rare") is one of his sources of humor; and he has taken great pains to show that baldness is a mark of genius. He has quoted many names to corroborate this fact, beginning the list with Homer and ending with Patrick Henry.

Our Southern humorist is Joel Chandler Harris. His work consists largely in writing short stories for the magazines, but beside this he has written twenty-two volumes of stories and poems. He calls his career accidental. Brought up in the South, from his boyhood he was fond of hearing and telling stories, especially the cabin stories of the negro. His mind is stored with these stories, to which every Southern boy or girl listens, full as they are of quaint humor, homely philosophy and simple goodness. He simply gives to us that which is in him, freely, fully and without affectation. His stories of Uncle Remus carry us in imagination to an old negro cabin, lighted only by the open fire, which casts strange shadows on the wall and shines upon the shadowy fascinated faces of the negro children, who are held spellbound by Uncle Remus' tales of Brer Rabbit and Brer Fox, of Brer Rabbit's Laughin' Place, of why Mr. Cricket has elbows on his legs, and of the Hard Headed Woman.

America's humorist of widest note is Mark Twain. He was born in 1835, in Missouri, because, he said, "Missouri was an unknown state and needed attractions." He traces his ancestry back to slavers and pirates of Queen Elizabeth's time, and says this is probably the reason he feels at times such a strong de-

sire to be a pirate, and feels so friendly toward Satan.

Some one has remarked that the proverbial irony of fate was never more clearly marked than by the fact that the world's greatest humorist has been a succession of personal tragedies. At the age of three he was forgotten by his parents and left alone in a forsaken house. And continually since then trials and bereavements and intervals of despondency have clouded his life. But in his breast there lives a spirit that rises triumphant over all this, and he still continues, after half a century to make joy for more millions of human beings than any other.

The story is told that when he was in London the report was cabled to the American journals that Mark Twain was dying. The London representatives began to flock in to see him, when they found he was alive and well. When asked by one of them what answer he should send his journal in America, he responded "Tell them the report is greatly exaggerated."

A lady acquaintance of his is very apt to interrupt what one is saying, and he told his wife he thought he should say to this lady's husband, "I am very glad your wife was not present when the Deity said 'let there be light.' "

He is the most widely read American man of letters. His most characteristic books are to be had in many languages, and his name is familiarly spoken by people to whom the names of Emerson and Hawthorne bring no meaning. He is loved because he has struck an original note, and his work is fresh, vivid and natural. His "Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn," and his "Innocents Abroad" will be read and loved in future ages, because they portray real life

in terms of beauty, freedom, humor and power.

Perhaps the humorist whom we as Americans love most is James Whitcomb Riley, the Hoosier poet. More truly than any other American author he expresses the life of his people—the inner life—the humor, the sympathy, the common sense of the American people. He himself says of his work: "I went among the people; I learned their wants, their sufferings and their joys, and I put these into verse."

His verse is not conventional and artistic—on the contrary he writes simply and naturally about the most common and homely themes. But he touches the heart life and the home life of his people. Very aptly some one has put it:

"Indeed there's no high flyin' business 'bout that kind of rhyme,
'N sassities to interpret it 'ud be a waste of time;
But when it comes to searchin' hearts and founts o' things,
You don't git things much searchiner than them songs Jim Riley
sings."

One of Riley's humorous characters is his farmer—big, tall and uncouth, yet with a tender heart; awkward and unconventional, yet full of kindness and true philosophy. He says of "Old John Henry":

"His doctern's jest o' the plainest brand—
A smilin face and a hearty hand
'S religion 'at all folks understand.
He aint refined as he'd ort to be
To fit the statutes o' poetry;
Ner his clothes don't fit him—but he fits me!"

But Riley is at his best in his poetry of childhood. Nowhere else do we find such real children, absolutely true to child life. His is the ordinary naughty child, full of mischief and unconscious humor, with all a child's dreams and aspirations. Out of these simple and commonplace things Riley weaves verses that never

cease to delight. A characteristic verse is one in "An Impetuous Resolve," where four boys are planning what they will be when they are men. Dick is to be a sailor, Hamey a tailor, and Bud a carriage maker.

An' when I grow a grea' big man
I'm goin to be a baker;
An' Dick'll buy his sailor suit
O' Hame, an Hame'll take it
An' buy us fine a double rig
As ever Bud can make it;
An nen all three'll drive roun' fer me,
An' we'll drive off together—
A slingin' pie crust 'long the road
Forever an' forever.

Another characteristic poem is entitled "Fool Youngens."

Me an' Bert en' Minnie Bell
Knows a joke an' we won't tell!
No, we don't—cause we don't know
Why we got to laughin' so;
But we got to laughin' so
We ist kep' a laughin'.
Wind was blowin' in the tree—
An' wuz only ist us three
Playin' there; an' ever' one
Ketched each other, like we done
Squintin' up there at the sun,
Like we wuz laughin'.
Nothin' funny anyway;
But I laughed, an' so did they—
An' we all three laughed, an' nen
Squint our eyes an' laugh agin;
Ner we didn't ist p'ten—
We wuz shore nuff laughin'.
We ist laugh an' laugh, tel Bert
Say he can't quit an' it hurt.
Nen I howl, an' Minnie Bell
She tear up the grass a spell
An' ist stop her yeers an' yell
Like she'd die a-laughin'.
Never sich fool-youngens yit!
Nothin' funny—not a bit!—
But we laugh so, tel we whoop
Purt' nigh like we had the croup—
All so hoarse we'd wheeze an' whoop
An' ist choke a-laughin'

M. E. L. '05.

THE CRESCENT.

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MARTIN JOHNSON, '12	
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Some college people are prone to be pessimistic in regard to the merits of their own school. They shut their eyes to the advantages and superior qualities, and become blinded by the few drawbacks—possibly imaginary ones. And this is no wonder, for a student's life is not the easiest, most pleasant life possible. But say! Let's be optimists!

Some of our exchanges have frequently mentioned a lack of college spirit, or criticised certain individuals through their columns. We do not doubt that this criticism was needed, for there are knockers in every school and student bodies are apt to become lukewarm, but we do think the college paper should be kept free from complaint. It casts a gloom over the whole paper, and

gives a reader the wrong opinion of the school. The criticism was of course only intended for the students of the home school, but the exchanges are often even more careful readers than the local students. Half our victories come from never admitting when we are beaten. We want more of the spirit shown by the small boy who, after being hammered fifteen minutes by a larger boy, boasted that he had done the pounding. As far as he was able he had.

Whatever we do, students, let's be patriotic. We know that Pacific College is the best place on earth, and we ought to let people know. When anyone asks you how school is, tell them it was never better, and that we are doing good work. We are doing much better work than last year, and the students are more contented. We have better prospects in athletics, debate, oratory, and every other line of college work. We must all hang together, as Franklin said, or we will all hang separately.

William Matthews, the veteran author and university professor, has an excellent article in the Christian Endeavor World for Nov. 26 on "What I Would Do Were I to Go Through College Again." Mr. Matthew says: "First, of all, I would seek to have and to maintain sound health, sanam mentem in sano corpore. The first condition of success in college and in life is to be a good animal. A pound of energy with an ounce of talent will achieve greater results than a pound of talent with an ounce of energy. It has been justly said that intellect in a weak body is like gold in a spent swimmer's pocket. * * * When shall we learn that health is a very different thing from strength, that it is not mus-

cular power, the ability to lift a thousand pounds, or to walk a thousand miles in a thousand hours? It has been truly said that, while in some respects identical, they are still distinct forces. One is the power that does; the other that which endures; one wins wages, the other, the prizes of life. Health is not the synonym of strength: it is, as I have said, a universal good condition; it is general vigor, vitality, nerve force, a state of the body in which every function does its work well."

President Roosevelt is to receive one dollar a word for a description of his African hunting trip. This seems at first a large price, and yet the publishers will make a big profit off the President's report. Roosevelt is a vigorous writer with a perspicuous, vigorous style, and people will read Roosevelt's works as soon as those of any other present writer. Formerly writers received more than this. Whittier received ten thousand dollars for "Snowbound," or two dollars a word. Byron received twenty thousand for "Childe Harold," and Moore received fifteen thousand for "Lallah Rookh," and seventy-five thousand for "Irish Melodies." Present writers, however, do not receive so much. President Roosevelt is to be associated with the "Outlook" later. The "Outlook" has been Roosevelt's best friend.

Locals

The week beginning with Nov. 9th was the week of prayer for colleges. Several fine addresses were given in chapel during the week. Monday Rev. Weaver of Friends church, Newberg; Tuesday, Dr. Lindley Wells of Portland; Wednesday, Rev. Blair of Newberg; Thursday Mr. Brown, Student Sec'y of Y. M. C. A.;

Friday, Rev. Stannard of Newberg.

The Agoreton thinks that Claude had better be "posted" next time he is on program for parliamentary drill.

The Greek of it,—"And having been cut off as to their heads they died."

We have two additions for the next issue of Websters dictionary, do-gigger and do-flicker. Apply to Laura Hammer and Lizzie Smith for derivation and meaning.

On Nov. 16 President Kelsey left for Walla Walla and returned a few days later.

To some its approach may seem slow; but it is surely coming—the time when the Webster's, the Burke's, and the Cicero's of Pacific College shall be known by their works.

Laura—Let's have a debate on Woman Suffrage in joint club sometime,—the girls against the boys.

Haines—All right. How will you state the question?

Laura—Oh! I don't know, "Resolved that woman—
Haines—Should suffer.

Lillian Johnson—"If I can find my way." Why is she so dubious?

The debate tryout was held Dec. 1, and Haines Burgess, Roy Fitch and Martin Johnson were chosen to represent P. C. in the intercollege debates.

Beulah Spaulding meditating—"A woman is as old as she looks. Well I must look like a spring chicken then."

On Nov. 28, George Moreback, one of our new students from Sherwood sustained a serious accident breaking his left leg below the knee. It is to be hoped that

he will soon recover and again be in our midst.

What a Medieval history class can learn, when Mrs. Douglas has them say ten times "I must bring my notebook," is alarming.

Who are the Jaques and what is their mysterious fishing tackle?

Mrs. Douglas in reading the name of Philoteah Webster—"Well I have never met this man." Really.

What was the purpose of the private interview of Erma and Ernest with Dr. Bancroft following his lecture on "When, Who and How to Love?"

We fear that some unnatural means must be taken to keep Benson awake in Zoology class.

Teacher—Claude, correct this sentence, "The teacher am in sight."

Claude—"The teacher am a sight."

The Helianthus and Agoreton clubs met in joint session Dec. 3. They propose to meet together once each month

On Dec. 3 Mr. Gale Seaman, the International Student Sec'y of the Y. M. C. A. visited the school. Welcome to him! We hope he will come again.

How handy are girls sleeves for waste baskets.

Erma—I have had this curl cut off three times already this year.

Ernest—Well I want next whack at it.

Who was that crowd of weary travelers who wandered into Duncan's after 12 o'clock on the night of Dec. 3 and where had they been?

D. W. C. A.

An invitation is extended to all the girls to join the mission study class. We will use Josiah Strong's "The Challenge of the City" as a text book. The class will be taught by Mrs. Reagan and will meet Thursday evenings immediately after school.

The Student secretary, Miss Hopkins, will visit the college and high school Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. A union meeting of the two societies, to be led by Miss Hopkins, will be held Sunday afternoon in the association room of the college.

Prof. Reagan led the weekly prayer meeting on Nov. 24. He gave us an interesting and impressive talk on girls' influences.

The prayer meetings are well attended this year. Mrs. Reagan led the meeting Dec. 1st.

D. M. C. A.

The visit of Gale Seaman December 3 was one of profit to our association. Not only was his talk in chapel interesting but his message to the boys at the one o'clock meeting was very helpful and inspiring. Mr. Seaman will always be welcome here for his earnest, straightforward, unassuming manner won the respect of all who met him.

Those who attend the conventions usually come back with the purpose of improving things at home and the McMinnville convention was no exception. Get the convention spirit from those who went and help make the association more nearly what it should be.

The average attendance at the Wednesday meetings is larger than last year, but should be still larger. We have had some very good meetings.

Dr. Rankin has consented to talk to us some time. Watch for the announcement as you will be interested

in what he will have to say.

So many give the excuse "I haven't time" for not attending the meetings that one is tempted to think the world has come to an end. See Rev. 10:16,

Basketball.

Although we have no regular coach for basketball, we have the basketball spirit and have gotten together a team that will do credit to themselves and the institution.

WALNUT CITY VS. P. C.

On November 20, we played our first game against Walnut City team of McMinnville. The teams were well classed and the game was hotly contested throughout. The home team, however, showed good training and won the game by a score of 27 to 17.

Y. M. C. A. VS. P. C.

On November 27, the team did credit to themselves in the first league game which was played at Portland against the Y. M. C. A. Notwithstanding the score of 34 to 14 the game was very close. At the end of the first half it certainly looked favorable for the collegians to win. They had outplayed the club team on the floor and had they been able to hit the basket as well, they would no doubt have had a much larger score.

MULTNOMAH VS. P. C.

On the next evening, the 28th of November, the boys from Pacific played a game in which they were outclassed. The game of the night before told on them and it was Multnomah's game. The score was 42 to 8. In the last half, in which the score was 14-6, Multnomah had to earn all they got.

EAST SIDE ATHLETIC CLUB VS. P. C.

On Saturday evening, the 5th of December, Pacific won from the East Side A. C. of Portland by a score of 25 to 15. When we get up against something that is in our class we can play basketball with good grace. The team all played fine ball and played together.

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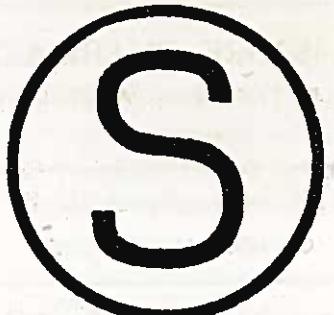
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